

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02588 171324Z

42

ACTION VO-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-03 EUR-08 A-01 SP-02 /017 W

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P R 171220Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7135

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2588

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, CVIS, CZ, XH

SUBJECT: REVISED VISA PROCEDURES FOR EASTERN  
EUROPEAN COMMERCIAL VISITORS

REF: PRAGUE 2135

1. POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL ADOPTION OF LONG-GRAVEL  
AMENDMENT TO TITLE IV OF TRADE REFORM ACT, WHICH  
WILL EFFECTIVELY BLOCK CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM  
PARTICIPATING IN TRADE AND CREDIT BENEFITS  
FLOWING FROM ACT, COMPLETELY UNDERMINES BASIS ON  
WHICH EMBASSY ASSESSMENT (REFTEL) OF NEW VISA PROCEDURES  
WAS FOUNDED. WE ARE CONSTRAINED BY NEW CIRCUMSTANCES  
TO ALTER OUR FORMER POSITION OF RELUCTANT ACCEPTANCE OF NEW  
PROCEDURES TO ONE OF ADAMANT OPPOSITION AT THIS  
CRITICAL JUNCTURE. EMBASSY IS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED  
THAT INTRODUCTION OF REVISED PROCEDURES FOR  
CZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL VISITORS AT THIS TIME  
WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE AND ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02588 171324Z

REVERSE FLOW OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. IN OUR VIEW, DEPARTMENT SHOULD URGENTLY PREVAIL  
UPON OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES TO DELAY IMPLEMENTING  
NEW VISA PROCEDURES UNTIL AFTER HOUSE AND SENATE  
CONFERENCE ON TRADE BILL TAKES PLACE IN LATE  
NOVEMBER. FATE OF LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT WILL IN  
ALL LIKELIHOOD BE SETTLED THEN. IF IT IS DEFEATED,  
NEW PROCEDURES WILL NOT HURT MUCH; IF IT PASSES,  
ADVERSE EFFECT OF NEW VISA RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LOST  
IN GENERAL DECLINE OF U.S./CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS.  
SHERER

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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